

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly amend the specification as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

Please amend the last paragraph on page 2 through page 3 as follows:

At present several *Escherichia coli* genes coding for putative membrane proteins enhancing L-amino acid production are disclosed. Additional copy of *rhtB* gene makes a bacterium more resistant to L-homoserine and enhances production of L-homoserine, L-threonine, L-alanine, L-valine, and L-isoleucine (European patent application EP994190A2). Additional copy of *rhtC* gene makes a bacterium more resistant to L-homoserine and L-threonine and enhanced production of L-homoserine, L-threonine and L-leucine (European patent application EP1013765A1). Additional copy of *yahN*, *yeas*, *yfiK* and *yggA* gene enhance production of L-glutamic acid, L-lysine, L-threonine, L-alanine, L-histidine, L-proline, L-arginine, L-valine and L-isoleucine (European patent application EP1016710A2). And though complete genome sequence of *Escherichia coli* strain K-12 is described (Blattner F.R., Plunkett G., Bloch C.A. *et al.*, *Science* 227, 1453-1474, 1997; ~~ftp://~~<ftp://ftp.genetics.wisc.edu/pub/sequence/ecolim52.seq.gz>), there are many ORFs, the function of which still remains unknown.